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(the position at the distance X from the trailing end of the sheet) in the sheet conveying direction (step S59).--

Page 57, replace the paragraph appearing in lines 20-27 with the following replacement paragraph:

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--Subsequently, the CPU 2002 determines at the step S54 whether or not this job has been completed. If the CPU 2002 determines that the job has been completed, it returns to the processing at the step S51 to prepare for the next job. On the other hand, if the CPU 2002 determines at the step S54 that the job is to be continued, it returns to the processing at the step S52 to continue the image forming operation.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel non-elected claims 1-10, 24, and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Kindly replace claims 11-15, 18, 19, and 21-23 with the following corresponding replacement claims:

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--11. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:
sheet processing means for processing a sheet having a side edge;
conveying means for conveying the sheet to be processed by said sheet processing means;
detecting means for detecting side edge of the sheet, the side edge extending along a
conveying direction of the sheet; and
control means for controlling said sheet processing means to process the sheet at a
position based on a detection result of said detecting means on the sheet, after a detecting
operation by said detecting means; and
wherein said control means controls timing of the detecting operation by said detecting
means so that said detecting means detects the side edge of the sheet at a vicinity of a sheet
processing position of the sheet at which said sheet processing means processes the sheet.

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12. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means determines said timing of the detection operation of the side edge of the sheet by said detecting means, based on a length of the sheet in the conveying direction of the sheet.

13. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means is adapted for processing plural types of sheets of different lengths in the conveying direction of the sheets, and wherein said control means controls the timing of the detection operation of detecting the side edge of each of the plural types of sheets by said detecting means depending on the length of each of the plural types of sheets in the conveying direction of the sheets. }

14. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein if the sheet process is carried out on a sheet of a first size or a sheet of a second size having a larger length in the conveying direction of the sheets than said sheet of the first size, said control means delays the timing of the detection operation of detecting the side edge of the said sheet of the second size with respect to the timing of the detection operation of detecting the side edge of said sheet of the first size.

15. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said control means sets the timing of the detection operation of detecting the side edge of each of said plural types of sheets by said detecting means to different values of timing according to the different lengths of said plural types of sheets in the conveying direction of the sheets such that the detection of the side edge of each of the sheets is always carried out at the location close to said sheet processing position.--

--18. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said control means is responsive to the detection of the side edge of the sheet by said detecting means, for moving said sheet processing means together with said detecting means.

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19. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means causes said sheet processing means to process the sheet without stopping the conveyance of the sheet by said conveying means.--

--21. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means processes the sheet without executing a sheet aligning process on the sheet.

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22. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing apparatus is adapted for to an image forming apparatus for forming images on a sheet, and wherein said sheet processing means processes the sheet supplied from said image forming apparatus.

23. (Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said control means controls timing the processing of the sheet by said sheet processing means together with the timing of detection of the side edge of the sheet by said detecting means, such that said sheet processing means processes the sheet having an image formed surface thereof facing downward at a trailing end thereof.--

Kindly add new claims 26-35 as follows:

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--26. (New) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means processes the sheet at a vicinity of a trailing end of the sheet, and wherein said control means controls the timing of the detecting operation by said detecting means so that said detecting means detects the side edge of the sheet at the vicinity of the trailing end of the sheet.

27 (New) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said detecting means is movable in a width direction with respect to the conveying direction of the sheet conveyed by said conveying means.

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28. (New) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said detecting means is movable in the width direction together with said sheet processing means.

29. (New) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means punches holes through the sheet.

30. (New) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the holes are aligned along a direction that is perpendicular to the conveying direction of the sheet.

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31. (New) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said sheet processing means punches holes through the sheet.

32. (New) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the holes are aligned along a direction that is perpendicular to the conveying direction of the sheet.

33. (New) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:
a sheet processor for processing a sheet having a side edge;
a conveyor for conveying the sheet to said sheet processor;
a detector for detecting the side edge of the sheet, the side edge of the sheet extending along a conveying direction of the sheet; and
a controller for controlling said sheet processor to process the sheet to a position based on a detection result of said detector on the sheet, after a detecting operation by said detector,
wherein said controller controls timing of the detecting operation by said detector so that said detector detects the side edge of the sheet at a vicinity of a sheet processing position of the sheet at which said sheet processor processes the sheet.--

34. (New) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said sheet processing means punches holes through the sheet.